**Resolution Opposing the Edmonds City Council Ordinance Chapter 5.70, entitled “Unlawful Occupation of Public Property”**

**WHEREAS** the foundation of democratic governance is that everyone, including the currently unhoused residents in our communities, has the right to a seat at the democratic table; and,

**WHEREAS** 85% - 90% of unhoused people, on public property in our community were formerly housed in our own communities; evictions are becoming a civil rights issue related to contemporary discrimination in housing access and economic inequality linked to the legacies of segregation, policies, and practices directed against persons of color and persons earning low income; persons having no other place to live;  and,

**WHEREAS** the ordinance criminalizes the status of poor and unhoused individuals by making it a misdemeanor and a penalty of $1000 for refusing to move to a shelter; and,

**WHEREAS** traditional shelters are not a solution for many people, including those whose practical options have been constrained by mental illness or addiction, men who wish to remain with their partner, individuals with pets, or people who are unable to return from work by the time the shelter closes or opens or to leave in the morning; and,

**WHEREAS** there is no shelter facility within the Edmonds city limits; and,

**WHEREAS** *Martin v. City of Boise* set a precedent that legalized public camping by unhoused people who have nowhere else to go. The Court established that criminalizing camping in public spaces is a violation of the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution; and,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 32nd District Democratic Organization ask that the Edmonds City Council immediately cancel any further action on this ordinance No. 5.70 entitled “Unlawful Occupation of Public Property”; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** immediately seek a democratic and compassionate solution to provide shelter and wraparound services to meet the specific needs of the individual requiring services, including locating a permanent 24/7 enhanced shelter in the City of Edmonds, and send a copy of this resolution to all elected officials within this jurisdiction.

Respectfully Submitted to the 32nd District Democrats for consideration at the May 4, 2022 Membership Meeting by Carin Chase, PCO Holly, 32nd State Committee Member

Adopted on May 4, 2022